

ANCIENT AND CLASSICAL CIVILIZATIONS

World History
Project
Mr. Jenkins

Value = 100 points

Due Date: _____

This class offers you an opportunity to explore and examine ideas and cultural contributions of various cultures in history. In this first project, you will choose a topic, which reflects your interests and your learning styles. Much of our work this first quarter will focus on a variety of cultures including ancient Sumeria, Babylonia, Hebrews, Minoans, Egypt, Greece and Rome, to name a few. Note the list of suggestions below. Negotiate with the instructor if you have another approach in mind not mentioned here.

The project will be graded using the requirements you will be given in writing. To receive a good grade, be sure to meet all of the requirements given on the attached sheet. All projects will be presented to the class to earn 20 of the 100 points. Projects not presented will earn no more than 80 points (or 80%, a C).

ARCHAEOLOGY: How does archeology help us better understand a particular culture from ancient times?

- a) Research what you feel is an especially important archeological find and explain how this find informs us about the culture in question. Who was the archeologist? Why is the discovery important? (e.g. Howard Carter and the discovery of King Tut's tomb in Egypt).
- b) Study underwater archeological discoveries of ancient or classical civilizations (choose one).
- c) Build a model representing an architectural tradition from a certain culture (e.g. see David MacCauley's Roman Village for one example).

THEATER: Study how theater reflected the values of a certain culture. For example, the ancient Greeks were especially rich in developing this tradition (e.g. Euripides, Sophocles,) Be prepared to perform a scene or act from a play written by the playwright under study.

TECHNOLOGY: Examine how technological change influenced the development of cultures (e.g. the evolution of farming techniques and the raising of food, the development of weaponry and warfare).

LAW: How do Hammurabi's Code, Mosaic Law and Justinian's Code reflect the cultural values of their respective times? What values from these law codes are represented in American law today?

LANGUAGE: In what ways has the development of language reflected a certain culture? Research a particular language (e.g. hieroglyphics, sanskrit, evolution of Latin). Be prepared to visually represent the language along with samples for your fellow students to translate. Another approach would be to study the origins of written language with cuneiform clay tablets from Sumeria.

RELIGION: a) Research ancient burial practices and death customs.

b) Study ancient myths and legends. This can also be integrated with theater. You might consider works by Edith Hamilton or Joseph Campbell for a start.

c) Study the religious beliefs of a polytheistic or monotheistic religion from the ancient Middle East.

MEDICINE: Trace the history of medicine during ancient and/or classical times. (See how this topic is also related to technology).

LITERATURE: Read and report on a book on some aspect of an ancient or classical civilization. This is an individual project. Your paper should discuss the major thesis or idea that the author tried to communicate to the reader. This book can also be about a notable figure (e.g. Julius Caesar, Pericles, Cleopatra, Claudius). How did the author go about supporting this thesis? What historical evidence was used? What was the most interesting aspect of this book to you? Why?

GREAT PHILOSOPHERS: Study the philosophy of a thinker from an ancient or classical culture. What significant contributions to the history of ideas did this thinker make? How is this contribution reflected in culture today? (e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Seneca, Marcus Aurelius).

GREAT HISTORIANS: Study contributions to the profession of the historian by such historians as Tacitus of Rome, Thucydides and Herodotus of Greece.

GREAT POETS: Study poetry by Homer, the author of the great epics, The Iliad and The Odyssey. Also consider Cicero or Ovid from Rome or the Epic of Gilgamesh from ancient Babylon. Note that theatrical performance can also be integrated as part of this activity. Plan to recite poetry written by the author under study OR consider writing your own poetry in the style of the culture you studied.

ART: Research and create a piece of art reflecting the culture of an ancient or classical civilization.

Don't overlook the importance of resources like National Geographic and others in your research work as well as CD-ROM packages in the LMC.